

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 PRS-01 ARA-06 H-02

CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 INR-07 VO-03 SCS-03

PPT-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 SSO-00 /076 W

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P R 291316Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8848

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 7791

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: STOWAWAY CUBAN REFUGEE HECTOR ELBERTO MARCELINO

TOLEDO THUJILLO

REF: ATHENS 12629

1. CONSULAR OFFICER TODAY HAS DISCUSSED WITH HUGO ROCHE BY TBEZ SITUATION OF TOLEDO THUJILLO. ROCHE ALONE IN SPLIT BECAUSE UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE BULAT (PROBABLY A YUGOSLAV) DID NOT RPT NOT ACCOMPANY ROCHE ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE OF FOUR DAY HOLIDAY WEEKEND. BULAT, HOWEVER, DID GIVE ROCHE INSTRUCTIONS FOR YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES, WHICH LATTER APPEAR TO BE FOLLOWING.

2. ACCORDING TO ROCHE, YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES HAVE DENIED ENTRY TO TOLEDO THUJILLO AND HAVE INFORMED SHIP'S CAPTAIN THAT SUBJECT MUST REMAIN ON BOARD THROUGHOUT THE FIFTEEN DAY STOPOVER IN SPLIT. ACCORDING TO ROCHE (AFTER HIS CONVERSATION WITH YUGOSLAV POLICE) SHIP ALLEGEDLY DEPARTING SPLIT DIRECTLY FOR CUBA. NO MENTION OF HIS ACCOMPANYING SHIP TO CORFU OR OF SHIP PROCEEDING TO CORFU. ROCHE WAS EXTREMELY HESITANT TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER
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BY TELEPHONE, HOWEVER, HE INDICATED A SUSPICION THAT

QUOTE SOMETHING ELSE IS GOING ON UNQUOTE.

3. ROCHE HAS BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO VISIT SHIP FOR TWO DAYS TO MEET WITH SUBJECT. HE HAS AGREED TO TRAVEL TO CONSULATE GENERAL IN ZAGREB AFTER TWO DAY VISIT ON SHIP IN ORDER TO DISCUSS MATTER MORE FREELY WITH CONOFF THERE. CONOFF HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PERSONALLY CALL ROCHE AT HOTEL IN SPLIT IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH CONTACT.

4. FYI BULAT HAS BEEN UNRESPONSIVE TO EMBASSY ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT HIM AND HAS NOT CONTACTED EMBASSY AS REQUESTED. IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT NOV 28 THROUGH NOV 30 ARE YUGOSLAV HOLIDAYS AND GOVT OFFICES ARE NOT IN OPERATION. NEVER- THELESS, IT IS EMBASSY IMPRESSION THAT BULAT WAS QUOTE DUCKING UNQUOTE ALL BUT VERY MINIMAL INVOLVEMENT IN AFFAIR.

5. FYI . AMBASSADOR WAS CALLED BY MIAMI HERALD REPORTER CONCERNING TOLEDO THUJILLO AND ADVISED HER THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF SITUATION. UNFORTUNATELY, BECAUSE OF RICHARDSON VISIT AT THE TIME OF INQUIRY (MIDNIGHT NOV 28) AMBASSADOR HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE EXISTANCE OF STOWAWAY. ALL FURTHER INQUIRIES ARE BEING REFERRED TO PRESS ATTACHE FOR OFFICIAL RESPONSE. END FYI.

6. FOR ATHENS: AMBASSADOR RECOMMENDS THAT ATHENS MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH HASELMAN, SINCE EMBASSY BELGRADE NOT SURE BULAT RELIABLE.
SILBERMAN

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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